

IMPROVING LINKAGES
BETWEEN WOMEN
AND ENERGY SECTOR
POLICIES PROGRAMMES
AND PROJECTS
WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO NEW
AND RENEWABLE
SOURCES OF ENERGY

*Methodological Approach
Framework and Plan of Operations for Zambia*

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*Methodological Approach
Framework and Plan of Operations for Zambia*

A report prepared by the Department of Energy
Ministry of Power Transport and Communications of the
Government of Zambia submitted to the United Nations
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

A situational analysis of women in the energy sector was undertaken with the objective of identifying constraints that restrained women from being more fully involved in sectoral activities. The analysis revealed that constraints, in general, affect the participation of women both as contributors as well as beneficiaries in all sectors of development; however, certain aspects, specific to the energy sector alone, bear a more direct influence on their roles.

Based on this analysis, a distinctive approach was evolved to enhance the participation of women. This methodological strategy takes cognizance of initiatives launched by the various institutions and agencies in the country to redress the situation of women while focussing on the project's role in strengthening such on-going activities.

The project is concerned with the training needs of policy makers, planners, project managers and trainers in the energy sector and provides guidelines on the kind of approach to be used for each target group. The training content for specific target groups is to be developed during the second year of the project.

2.0 GENERAL ACTIONS

In general, the project is expected to supplement national efforts to raise levels of education, lower levels of illiteracy, disseminate information and increase training opportunities, particularly in scientific and technical subjects.

More specifically, since public knowledge about the energy issue, especially the New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE), is limited, the project will integrate energy, as a subject, into existing educational and literacy programmes, provide training and support materials as well as train trainers in energy issues. Awareness programmes on NRSE are also to be integrated into existing educational and literacy programmes.

Follow-up to this project will target the trainers of on-going educational/literacy programmes and clubs, increase the supply of information through books, campaign posters, radio, television shows, etc., and develop as well as increase training opportunities by sponsoring courses, seminars, workshops on women and energy issues. These activities could be implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) and other national organizations with the assistance of UNDP and donor agencies.

3.0 SPECIFIC TRAINING MATERIALS AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE PROJECT

Specific aspects of the training can be addressed directly through a 3-phase approach that targets the needs of personnel involved in energy projects and programmes at various levels.

4.0 PHASE I: NATIONAL HIGH LEVEL MEETING (NHLM)

The project will initially conduct a National High Level Meeting to implement the recommendations of the Situational Analysis(NHLM) Report and the proposed Methodological Approach.

4.1 Objective

The NHLM will consider the recommendations of the Situational Analysis, the proposed Methodological Approach and methods of integrating women and energy issues, especially NRSE, into existing programmes and activities.

4.2 Target

The NHLM will involve a cross-section of participants from organizations that are involved, in one way or another, with energy and/or women's issues, such as policy formulators (Directors and Assistant Directors), planners and trainers from the following institutions:

Women in Development Department (WIDD) at NCDP, DOE, Planning Division and Agricultural Extension of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Department, Natural Resources Department, Social Development Department at national and provincial levels, Community Development Department of District Councils, NGOs, Volunteer Service Groups, Curriculum Development Center, University of Zambia, National Council for Scientific Research, the church, donor agencies, farmers, media, etc.

A total of 40 participants will be expected to attend. Adequate care is to be taken to ensure a significant level of women's participation.

4.3 Method

Participants are to be divided into working groups according to their levels of involvement in policy formulation, planning, project and programme implementation, etc. The objective of this approach is to enhance participation as well as ensure dissemination of collective experience through group discussions and presentations.

4.4 Required materials

The following support materials on renewable energy technologies are to be used, wherever possible, for the presentation of the situational analysis and methodological approach: flip charts, pamphlets, transparencies and video films. The support material is to show the successful application of renewables in other developing countries and explain, in simple terms, how they function.

4.5 Duration of NHLM

This is envisaged to last for two days.

4.6 Output

The output of NHLM will comprise of commitments to proposed actions, a timetable for presentation of the project to the government and subsequent implementation by various organizations.

4.7 Conveners

The NHLM will be convened primarily by DOE and WIDD in the National Commission for Development Planning (NCDP). INSTRAW will provide all the necessary support to this high level meeting.

5.0 PHASE II: TRAINING AND SEMINARS

This phase involves the actual training of target groups.

5.1 Policy Makers

5.1.1 Objective

The programme at this level should seek to achieve the following: (a) to develop and increase the awareness of policy and decision makers on the role of women in energy issues; (b) to identify the critical role of policy and decision makers in the implementation of women and energy projects and programmes and (c) to enable the policy and decision makers appreciate the vital role of energy in the development process and in the improvement of the lives of the population, especially that of women.

5.1.2 Target

Participants will comprise of Ministers, Ministers of State, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Assistant Secretaries, Assistant Directors and UNDP. About 60 members will be expected to attend.

5.1.3 Method

The seminar will be informal and the methodology will consist of lead papers summarizing the main issues, brain storming sessions supported with adequate audio-visual materials.

5.1.4 Duration

One day seminars/workshops will be offered followed by refresher seminars at regular intervals (every six months).

5.1.5 Conveners

The training will be convened by DOE and WIDD-NCDP in cooperation with INSTRAW.

5.1.6 Preparation Time

The conveners will require about 4-6 months of preparation for the seminar. DOE will prepare all the required documentation.

5.2 Planners and Project Managers

This target group comprises of personnel involved in the planning, conducting and monitoring of projects, at the local and national levels, in fields such as forestry, natural resources, energy, environment, etc.

5.2.1 Objective

To develop and strengthen the capability of planners and project managers in identifying viable energy projects and to improve their analytical capability on project implementation, monitoring and evaluation with respect to women.

5.2.2 Target

The participants will comprise of Planners, Project Managers, Project Supervisors, Project and Programme Coordinators of WIDD-NCDP, DOE, Forestry Department, Natural Resources Department, Social Development Department, Volunteer Service Organizations and other NGOs, etc. A total of 40 participants are expected to attend. The course should take place outside Lusaka to ensure adequate concentration.

5.2.3 Method

The approach will involve a modular training package consisting of training texts, working groups, exercises, case studies, audio-visual materials, flip charts, transparencies and field visits.

5.2.4 Duration

Two week course on project planning, identification, management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is proposed.

5.2.5 Conveners

The course will be convened by DOE and WIDD-NCDP with technical support from INSTRAW, the Management Services Board, etc.

5.2.6 Preparation Time

A minimum of 6 working months will be required to prepare the training modules with the first three months being recommended for preparation of the background documentation by DOE and the remaining three working months for finalizing of the material by INSTRAW.

5.3 Trainers

Trainers executing courses on health, nutrition and income generation for women will be involved.

5.3.1 Objective

To develop a strong link between end-users and planners/technicians; to develop and strengthen the understanding and appreciation of energy issues and NRSE, in particular; and to develop competent teams of women and men to disseminate energy information to end users.

5.3.2 Target

Personnel from the fields of Social Development, Community Development, Agricultural Extension, Volunteer Service, NGO, etc., including community development officers, leaders of women's clubs, extension officers, etc., will be involved.

5.3.3 Method

The methodology will comprise of a demonstration of energy technologies to raise awareness. The trainers will be provided with materials that explain each renewable energy technology in a DO-IT-YOURSELF method. They will also be trained on skills necessary for effective communication of information on energy technologies as well as some project monitoring know-how. Since there are nine provinces in total, two training courses will be organized, one for the southern (covering four provinces) and the other for the northern (covering five provinces) part of the country. Each course will involve about 40 participants.

5.3.4 Preparation Time

A minimum of 6 months will be required for the preparation of the training modules. DOE will prepare the background documents in three working months while INSTRAW will need three working months to finalize it into modular package.

6.0 PHASE III: RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

This draft methodological approach acknowledges the limited financial resources as well as the time-frame for UNDP funded projects. It also recognizes that not all target groups identified in the Situational Analysis are covered by the project.

For training to have a wider effect, it is proposed that an inverted pyramid approach, i.e. a bottoms-up approach, be adopted. Since the Situational Analysis shows end-users to be the largest target group in the energy system, the training need of this group is to be addressed i.e. housewives, farmers and those involved in the informal sector.

The methodological approach, therefore, stresses the medium and long term importance and need for extending the dissemination of NRSE technologies to the end-user target group in order to achieve the maximum impact on expanding the role of women in the energy sector, especially the NRSE sub-sector. Efforts should be made to secure funding from the UNDP and the other donor agencies to finance this part of the project.

6.1 Objective

The objective of training end-users will be to raise their level of awareness with regards to NRSE and accompanying devices as well as impart appreciation of efficient energy applications. Additionally, this will also help raise the level of literacy and technological appreciation amongst women.

6.2 Target

Members will be drawn from women's clubs, literacy clubs, observation clubs, NGOs, etc.

6.3 Method

The methodology will include use of demonstration projects where ever possible, so as to achieve maximum impact. In this regard, the project will attempt to build linkages with existing projects that involve installation of renewable energy technologies (YWCA, Nutrition Group, Kasisi Mission, etc). Apart from demonstrations, the project will involve discussions and audio-visual materials (which could also be done on radio and television). Emphasis will be laid on imparting basic skills in the application of devices, maintenance and repair of technologies.

6.4 Duration

Seminars and workshops of one-week duration are proposed at District, Community Area and Village level.

6.5 Conveners

The activities will be convened by officials from the Social Development Department and Community Development Department with necessary technical support from DOE and WIDD-NCDP.

6.6 Funding

Funds are to be sought from UNDP and other donor agencies.

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